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RURAL DISTRICT OF WAYLAND

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH

THE

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Medical Officer of Health

A. AFNAN

M.D. D.L.O., D.P.H., L.A.H., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts.

A. T. BOORE

F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

(Also holds the Certificate for the
Inspection of Meat and other Foods)

Additional Public Health Inspectors

A. E. SHELDRAKE

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(Also holds the Certificate for the
Inspection of Meat and other Foods)

B. G. THORNTON

M.A.P.H.I.,

(from 1. 8. 68.)

Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

WATER AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health services for the year 1968.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate for population was 20,960. There were 307 live births of which 24 were illegitimate.

During the year there were 242 deaths and the adjusted death rate is 9.8.

The captains of death are Ischaemic heart diseases and cancer. Also high on the list are cerebiro-vascular accidents.

The dominant modern epidemic is Ischaemic heart disease, and because it seems to strike out of the blue and often fatally, it generates as much fantasy about its causes as fears in the man, his wife and his doctor.

Despite the effective control of hypertension by modern drugs, it is disappointing that the death rate from strokes have shown so little change during the last 30 years.

Bronchitis is essentially a working mans killer and his personal air pollution from cigarette smoking is the common and dominant factor, at least in this self-destruction from coronary catastrophe, lung cancer and bronchitis.

The advent of anti-biotics has produced its "miracles" mainly in infancy and childhool and in pneumonia and other bacterial diseases. When however, they come to middle and later years with a lifetime of wear and tear on ageing tissues, with mixed virus infections, even the latest anti-biotics are not a wonder cure.

Britain is drinking more alcohol than ever before. Over the past 10 years the amount spent has risen from £911 millions in 1958 to £1585 millions. In 1967 more than £25 million was spent on advertising alcohol, an increase of £9 millions compared with 1958.

Also more people are spending a greater proportion of their income on drink than previously.

The increase has resulted in a corresponding rise in drunkenness particularly among young people.

In 1959 the incidence of proved drunkenness in that group was nearly 18.8 per 10,000; in 1967 it was 25.3 - an increase of over one third. The efforts of the drink trade to boost alcohol sales by intensive advertising can not be divorced from the emergence of the growing rate of drunkenness, particularly among the younger sections of the community.

The report from the Wootton Committee on Drug Dependence on cannabis smoking, suggests less severe penalties while not legalising its use. If the penalties are reduced it would amount to a semi-official opinion that the drug is not really very dangerous, (no more so than, say, alcohol). The Geneva officials of the United Nations Narcotics Drug Division described as "foolish and dangerous" any move to legalise the drug.

The British Medical Association believes that it should be subject to reliable forms of control.

More and more people could become addicted and go onto the more dangerous narcotics, such as heroin. Dr. Elizabeth Tylden, Consultant Psychiatrist at University College Hospital, London, states that "All the people who have worked with heroin say that the first drug these people took was cannabis. We did not have a heroin problem with people under 20 before cannabis became popular.

It is estimated that as many as one million people probably smoke cannabis in this country. Of necessity it comes from an unscrupulous, criminal black market. The drug underground has an additional fascination for the unstable, and for those who see it as one way to demonstrate against established authority, simply because it is underground.

To stem the leakage of amphetamine tablets (Pep Pills) from manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers is of great importance. No national figures are available on the number of thefts from pharmacies, but, they are known to have increased recently. Small-time criminals know that these drugs are easily marketable and will show higher profits than cases of whisky.

At the moment there is no legislation to make security arrangements compulsory. There is a further difficulty in prosecuting the hawkers of the pep-pills. Unless a person can actually be proved to have taken money for the illegal sale of these drugs, he can only be charged with illegal possession and he is liable to no greater penalty than the teenager to whom he may have sold the pills.

The new laws with regard to breathalyser, tyres and seat belts have made roads much safer. In the first 12 months of the breathalyser road deaths had fallen by 1,152 and serious cases of injury by 11,177. In financial terms, 311 millions which would have been otherwise written off in sickness, medical costs, and police time, has been saved. Casualties between the times of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. have been reduced by 33 per cent compared with a general figure of 4 per cent for other times. The reduction between Saturday nights and Sunday morning is 40-42 per cent.

According to a survey by the Automobile Association two million motorists in Britain regularly drive under the influence of pills or medicine which may have side effects ranging from dizziness to outright collapse.

Some of these drugs may be antihistamines, tranquilisers and slimming pills which perhaps were never thought of as having any relevance to driving. It may be that some of these drugs could, at least for some people in some medical conditions, have potentially dangerous effects, even though the driver remained unconscious of them. The Automobile Association has initiated an important line of enquiry. It is obviously too soon to jump to conclusions but it would also be wrong to leave the questions raised waiting indefinitely for an answer.

During the year immunisation against measles was introduced and was offered at schools and infant welfare clinics. It was administered by a single injection usually to children in their second year. This would seem a reduction of suffering and family distress caused by measles.

In an epidemic year (every other year) the number of notified cases of measles might rise as high as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million. About one per cent of patients might have illnesses necessitating admission to hospital. Between 1962 and 1966 measles caused 434 deaths, 100 more than those attributable to diphtheria, polio, smallpox and whooping cough.

The vaccine has been used in Britain since 1963 and in the U.S.A. since 1962. It is not known how long it lasts, but, experience will show whether booster doses are required. So far the evidence is that the vaccine gives an immunity as strong as that held by people who have had the disease.

Many drugs have been developed in the past thirty or forty years to the enormous benefit of mankind. Most of them have undesirable side effects of one kind or another. There is always likely to be some balance of advantage and risk. Of all the new drugs, we most need to have a balanced view on the contraceptive pill. The contraceptive pill has now been widely tested in different forms and in many Countries. Its side effects have been closely studied, and it is constantly being improved. But because it has been in use for only about ten years we shall not know for another ten years or so what its longterm consequence may be. But up to date the most conscientious medical reports have been reassuring. There is no evidence that it is a cause of cancer. The children of mothers who have been taking the pill are healthy (we shall have to wait and see if there has been any effect on their fertility).

There does seem to be a small risk of developing thrombotic complaints, but, no more so than in pregnancy and it is a risk very much less than that of terminating an unwanted pregnancy by abortion. All in all it would seem that there is rather less risk from the contraceptive pill than there is from alcohol or aspirin, (which do not happen to be so newsworthy currently).

Setting aside the theological controversy, the social consequences are of the utmost importance. The pill is not only the most reliable but the least complicated contraceptive. Social workers concerned with the problems of large families and bad housing see it as perhaps their most important aid. There is little evidence that its use has led to increased promiscuity, though it has helped to establish more relaxed and satisfying relationships among married couples and between those who may be termed unpromiscuous extra-marital couples. Most people would agree that this has been good for relations between the sexes.

The dangers of contracting diseases from pets is real, and probably growing. Apart from dangers from exotic animals, there are risks from puppies and kittens. About one in five of dogs and cats in the London area are infected with Toxocara worms. And the Toxocara larvae can cause encephalitis and haemorrhage, and may play an important part in the causation of asthma and epilepsy.

Puppies and kittens that are not house trained should not be allowed in households where there are young children and pet shops should ask a veterinary surgeon to treat puppies and kittens before selling them as pets.

Monkeys emerge as a particular hazard. They are not subject to quarantine, yet they are proven carriers of rabies and are known to transmit at least two fatal viruses or virus like diseases, and have caused serious outbreaks of bacterial dysentery.

Although dogs and cats are quarantined, many animals and birds which can and do bite, and which are known carriers of rabies, can be freely imported and are becoming more and more common in pet shops. Examples are gerbils, mouse like creatures from Africa, striped squirrels from Korea, Indian Otters, mongooses and ferrets.

Unnecessary handling of pets should be avoided, but, if they have been handled, the hands should be washed before preparing food or eating. This is even more important in the case of expectant mothers. Domestic food must be protected from pets at all times and they should be kept off tables and kitchen surfaces.

Animals should be trained not to pollute lawns, pavements and childrens play areas, sandpits should be covered to prevent animals defaecating in them. Raw meat for pet food is an unwise buy. This by law is stained and green colour. It is a serious health danger as it comes from possibly diseased animals, killed without meat inspection of any kind. Pets dishes must be kept and washed separately from household dishes and allowed to drain without wiping.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and consideration extended throughout the year and also express my appreciation to all members of the staff for their conscientious assistance.

A. AFNAN.

WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1968.

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	106,881
Estimated Resident Population	20,960
Rateable Value (1st April, 1968)	
Sum produced by a Penny Rate (1967-1968)	

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	146	137	283
Illegitimate	11	13	24
Totals	157	150	307

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population: Crude 14.6
Adjusted 12.6

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 19

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	157 3	150 3	307 6
Totals	160	153	313

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	3	3
Totals	-	3	3

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total = 10 (per 1,000 live births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 3

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 3

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 22

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 11 Females - 13 Total - 24 = 8% of Total Live Births.

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) = NIL

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = NIL

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
133	109	242

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population) = 11.5

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population) = 9.8

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasma	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Birth injury	-	1	1
Totals	-	3	3

Table 10. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATH RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Group)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	-	1	1
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	2	2
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 " " 15	1	1	2
15 " " 25	1	-	1
25 " " 35	-	-	-
35 " " 45	2	4	6
45 " " 55	10	4	14
55 " " 65	20	8	28
65 " " 75	34	23	57
75 and over	64	66	130
Totals	133	109	242

Table 11. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar General)

Internal No.	Causes	Males	Females	Total
B 6	Other Tuberculosis, inc. late effects.	2	-	2
B 19 (1)	Malignant neoplasm - stomach	4	4	8
B 19 (2)	" " Lung - Bronchus	8	1	9
B 19 (3)	" " - Breast	-	5	5
B 19 (4)	" " - Uterus	-	1	1
B 19 (5)	Leukaemia	1	2	3
B 19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	13	8	21
B 21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
B 46 (1)	Other endocrine, etc. diseases.	1	1	2
B 23	Anaemias	-	1	1
B 46 (4)	Other diseases of nervous system	1	-	1
B 26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	2	5
B 27	Hypertensive disease	3	-	3
B 28	Ischemic heart diseases	32	30	62
B 29	Other forms of heart disease	4	11	15
B 30	Cerebro-Vascular diseases	14	11	25
B 46 (5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	5	4	9
B 31	Influenza	3	3	6
B 32	Pneumonia	9	8	17
B 33 (1)	Bronchitis & Emphysema	9	2	11
B 33 (2)	Asthma	1	-	1
B 46 (6)	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
B 34	Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
B 36	Intestinal obstruction & hernia	-	1	1
B 37	Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
B 46 (7)	Other diseases of digestive system	3	2	5
B 38	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
B 39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
B 46 (10)	Other diseases genito-urinary system	4	1	5
	C/Forward			

Internal No.	Causes	Males	Females	Total
B/Forward				
B 46 (10)	Disease of Muscula skeletal system	-	1	1
B 43	Birth injury, difficult labour	-	1	1
B 45	Symptoms and ill-defined condition	3	1	4
BE 57	Motor vehcile accidents	1	-	1
BE 48	All other accidents	3	2	5
BE 49	Suicide and self-infected injuries	2	2	4
BE 50	All other external causes	-	1	1
Totals				

Table 12. COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Estimated Population	20,960	20,680	20,643	20,190	20,050	19,660
Total Births	307	331	382	329	344	307
Total Deaths	242	221	223	217	199	228
Birth Rate (Crude)	14.6	16.0	18.2	16.2	17.2	15.6
Death Rate (Crude)	11.5	10.7	10.8	10.7	9.9	11.6
Infant Deaths	3	9	6	4	5	6
Infant Mortality Rate	10	27	16.12	12.1	14.5	19.5
Stillbirths	6	1	10	2	6	4
Stillbirth Rate	19	0.3	26.23	6.07	17.4	12.9

Table 13. NUMBERS OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10- 14	15- 24	25- 44	45- 64	65+	Age Un- Known	TOTAL
Measles	2	5	3	9	9	27	3	2					60
Pneumonia									1	1	1		3
Whooping Cough	1	2	1		3	4							11
Meningitis					1								1
Salmonella	1												1
Dysentery	1		1		2	1	1	1	1				8
Malaria									1				1
Totals	5	7	5	9	15	32	4	3	3	1	1		85

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

YEAR	RESPIRATORY			OTHER			GRAND TOTAL
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL	
1968	43	37	80	28	16	44	124
1967	43	36	79	28	16	44	123
1966	43	37	80	27	16	43	123
1965	45	37	82	27	16	43	125
1964	48	37	85	27	16	43	128
1963	53	38	91	27	15	42	133

Table 15. TETANUS IMMUNISATION - Health Area 6.

	YEAR OF BIRTH						TOTALS
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961 - 1964	Others Under 16	
Primary	263	273	56	12	19	23	646
Booster	12	125	250	50	361	360	1158
TOTALS	275	398	306	62	380	383	1804

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Health Area 6.

	YEAR OF BIRTH						TOTALS
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961 - 1964	Others Under 16	
Primary	263	273	56	12	16	1	621
Booster	12	123	243	46	337	193	954
TOTALS	275	396	299	58	353	194	1575

Table 17. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION - Health Area 6.

	YEAR OF BIRTH						TOTALS
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961 - 1964	Others Under 16	
Primary	260	264	53	10	6		593
Booster	11	111	227	38	103	3	493
TOTALS	271	375	280	48	109	3	1086

Table 18. ORAL POLIOMYELITIS - Health Area 6.

	YEAR OF BIRTH						TOTALS
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961 - 1964	Others Under 16	
Primary	239	303	66	15	26	4	653
Booster	5	88	98	21	379	45	636
TOTALS	244	391	164	36	405	49	1289

Table 19. SMALLPOX VACCINATION - Health Area 6.

Age at date of Vaccination	Numbers Vaccinated	Numbers Re-Vaccinated
0 - 3 Months	2	
3 - 6 Months	6	
6 - 9 Months	4	
9 - 12 Months	3	
1 Year	278	1
2 - 4 Years	118	8
5 - 15 Years	46	71
TOTALS	457	80

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Annual Report is my eighteenth as Senior Public Health Inspector and covers the twenty-second year of my service with the Council.

During the year, 3541 visits were made for all purposes, an increase of 568 over last year, resulting mainly from the appointment of a second Additional Public Health Inspector in August.

The practical problems associated with the meat inspection service, the dominant topic of reports until last year when one hundred per cent inspection was achieved and maintained, can this year be "soft-peddled", despite an increase in total throughput of nearly 18,500 animals.

Our statutory obligations under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 were fulfilled.

New sewerage schemes were commissioned in the Parishes of Attleborough and East Harling in June and November respectively.

The routine work of the Public Health Department is dealt with in the following itemised report :-

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

For nine months of the year no action was necessary under this heading. In the parish of Watton six cases of dysentery, involving three families, and at Attleborough two cases in the same family, were dealt with during the year. In the former instance a slaughterhouse employee was excluded from work until cleared of infection. One case of Salmonella typhimurium was investigated and advice given to two contacts of smallpox notified from another area. Human handlers of infected animals, traced from notifications by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, have been advised concerning prevention of spread of infection.

MEAT INSPECTION

Seven Authorised Meat Inspectors are employed, six of them at Watton Abattoir and one covering two slaughterhouses at Banham and Kenninghall.

I am happy to report that, following an increase of throughput of over 11,000 animals in 1967, a further increase of nearly 18,500 animals has been dealt with by the same number of inspection staff in 1968. This has been possible largely because reorganisation at Watton Abattoir has resulted in more continuous even throughput on the line.

The inspection routine has been maintained at the five slaughterhouses in the District at a very high standard and in strict conformity with Regulations.

At Watton Abattoir the increase in throughput was nearly 20,000 animals in the year (and still rising in 1969). Two factors contributed to this, namely, continuation of the increase in slaughtering hours from 45 to 50 hours per week (agreed by the Council in September, 1967) and better organisation by the management, resulting in more continuous operation of the mechanised line.

Comparison with throughput for the four preceding years is shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Watton Abattoir</u>			<u>Inspection Staff</u>
	<u>Animals Slaughtered</u>	<u>Carcases Inspected</u>	<u>Percentage Inspected</u>	
1968	191,136	191,136	100 %	6
1967	171,182	171,182	100 %	(5 for 6 months 6 for 6 months)
1966	159,753	131,647	82.4 % (77.07 % stamped)	4
1965	128,440	95,059	74 % (56.44 % stamped)	(2 for 3 months 3 for 9 months)
1964	118,508	62,805	53 % (about 30 % stamped)	(2 for 6 months 3 for 6 months)

Operational problems having been resolved, the outstanding black spot is the financial loss incurred and in this connection, representations to the Ministry proved abortive.

One case of Blackquarter, diagnosed by the meat inspection staff, was confirmed by the Ministry Veterinary Officers.

The following table shows inspection achievement (with corresponding figures for previous years) and gives details of disease conditions found and condemnations of unfit meat in the District :-

<u>Period Covered</u>		<u>Cattle</u>			<u>Sheep</u>				
<u>Yar 1968.</u>		<u>Excluding</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sows</u>	<u>Boars</u>	<u>Totals</u>
		<u>Cows</u>			<u>Lambs</u>				
Killed	1968	4,457	2,031	156	8,843	184,022	12,938	2,941	215,388
	1967	3,797	1,670	225	12,222	164,479	11,240	3,172	196,805
	1966	4,000	1,918	221	12,606	154,375	11,214	3,105	187,439
<hr/>									
Inspected and									
stamped	1968	4,457	2,031	156	8,843	184,022	12,938	2,941	215,388
	1967	3,797	1,670	225	12,222	164,479	11,240	3,172	196,805
	1966	3,845	1,487	164	12,160	124,488	6,760	1,262	150,166
Inspected, not									
stamped	1966	11	78	8	195	7,797	355	70	8,514
<hr/>									
Totals									
inspected	1968	4,457	2,031	156	8,843	184,022	12,938	2,941	215,388
	1967	3,797	1,670	225	12,222	164,479	11,240	3,172	196,805
	1966	3,856	1,565	172	12,355	132,285	7,115	1,332	158,680
	1965	3,897	267	189	9,042	100,255	3,735	819	118,204
	1964	4,075	284	167	8,135	81,613	2,856	717	97,847
	1963	4,904	461	212	7,650	70,779	4,067	923	88,996
	1962	4,170	441	121	8,440	26,516	3,246	634	43,568
	1961	2,844	583	154	9,319	14,271	1,537	226	28,934
	1960	2,171	624	204	7,216	10,193	1,203	122	21,733

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.

Whole carcasses									
condemned	1968	14	61	17	50	614	191	8	955
	1967	7	56	21	58	549	164	6	861
Carcases of which									
some part or organ									
was condemned									
	1968	1,353	704	13	545	37,381	2,519	14	42,529
	1967	1,267	513	21	904	28,371	1,755	41	32,872

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses									
condemned	1968	4	-	-	-	24	-	1	29
	1967	-	1	-	-	9	-	-	10
Carcases of which									
some part or organ									
was condemned									
	1968	2	-	-	-	5,236	27	3	5,268
	1967	1	-	-	-	3,530	46	22	3,599

Cysticercosis.

Carcases of which									
some part or organ									
was condemned									
	1968	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	1967	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	11
Carcases treated									
by refrigeration									
	1968				NIL				
	1967				NIL				
Generalised and									
totally condemned									
	1968				NIL				
	1967				NIL				

<u>WEIGHT CONDEMNED</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Edible Offal	206,087 lbs.	139,948 lbs.
Meat	<u>193,595 lbs.</u>	<u>200,913 lbs.</u>
Totals:	<u>399,682 lbs.</u>	<u>340,861 lbs.</u>
	178 tons. 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.	152 tons. 3 cwts. 1 qtr. 17 lbs.

All condemnations were of meat and offals voluntarily surrendered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Standards of hygiene and operational procedures are not always maintained in a satisfactory manner. Commercial considerations, particularly at times when throughput is intensified, tend to take pride of place.

Routine inspection visits by Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food provide helpful reinforcement in our efforts to remedy structural and operational defects.

One such recurring defect has been failure to provide and maintain covers for waste bins. However, this matter shows promise of improvement by introduction of a regular wastes collection service by one firm, in their own bulk containers.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958.

Six new "Conditional" licences to slaughter were granted during the year.

I am still of the opinion, expressed in detail in last year's report, that full licences to slaughter are too easily obtainable, via a "conditional" licence, before the licensee is fully competent in all aspects of the work. In my view licencing should entail thorough instruction, not only in the actual skills of humane slaughter of animals and dressing of carcasses, but embracing also hygiene in slaughterhouses and handling of meat.

FOOD PREMISES

One hundred and eighty-three inspection visits were made to food premises during the year, many of them concurrently with visits under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Remedial works were completed in thirteen cases.

Two new registrations of premises were granted for the storage and sale of prewrapped ice-cream and a further one in respect of preparation and preservation of food intended for sale.

Advice was given in connection with the opening of new cafe premises in the parish of Attleborough.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF MILK.

One new registration of premises was granted, under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, and a transfer of registration was approved.

In one case, in which salmonella infection in a milk production herd was notified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, retail sale of milk from the herd was stopped and that milk diverted for pasteurisation, while supplies for retail were obtained from another source.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Three well supplies were sampled during the year, all giving unsatisfactory results.

In one instance, advice re cleansing of the well proved successful, whilst in a second case an alternative supply was arranged and in the remaining case the possibility of an alternative supply was being investigated at the end of the year.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES, ETC.

One dwelling house was treated for flea infestation, two for cluster fly infestation and the clothing and bedding of one family was dealt with at a disinfestation centre following notification of scabies.

Disinfestation measures were put in hand by the owners of large-scale poultry production premises, following complaints of fly infestation of adjoining dwelling houses.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Three establishments continued in operation during the year, no new licence applications having been made.

PETROLEUM STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION.

One hundred and thirty-five storage installations were licensed. Of these, seven were new installations, constructed and tested in accordance with the Model Codes of Practice.

Advice concerning new installations was given in two additional cases.

NOISE NUISANCES

Complaints from local residents, alleging excessive noise from a woodworking factory at Watton, were investigated.

Noise level readings, taken within and outside the dwellings concerned, indicated that the noise level did not exceed accepted standards.

Never-the-less, the factory owners agreed to undertake remedial measures, involving the isolation of, an extraction fan from its trunking, the trunking from the cyclone and the raising of a cowl on the cyclone.

No further complaints have been received.

FLOODING OF PREMISES.

Serious flooding of premises occurred in the parishes of Kenninghall and Besthorpe in the month of September.

Immediate aid was given by pumping out and restoration of dwellings where practicable, but, the question of permanent remedial measures was being investigated by the Council through the appropriate river and drainage authorities.

INSANITARY DWELLING.

One dwelling house at New Buckenham, found to be in a deplorably dirty state, was cleared of accumulated filth by Council staff and was later refurnished and redecorated by neighbours and the Welfare services.

DANGEROUS AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS.

One such building, at North Lopham, was demolished following informal approach to the owner.

COMPLAINTS.

Ninety-three complaints of a minor nature, on various topics, were dealt with by informal action.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Vandalism, at Watton and Attleborough, continued to hamper efforts to maintain these premises in a satisfactory state. Illuminated signs, windows and other fixtures and fittings were damaged and walls and doors defaced to an even greater extent this year. Detection of offenders, by Police and Council Staff, has not been possible and the problem of maintenance of these unattended premises continues to be a difficult one.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

This service was maintained in a satisfactory manner during the year. One man was added to the collection staff and the acquisition of a third 35 cu. yd. compression vehicle in replacement of a side-loader was approved during the year.

Maintenance of the three dumps in use was the least satisfactory aspect of this service, lack of suitable covering material and heavy equipment for levelling being the major problems.

The small agricultural tractor used for this work was equipped with double cage wheels in an attempt to improve its performance and reduce tyre destruction.

The Working Party of Public Health Inspectors, (set up in May, 1967), investigating problems connected with this service in the eastern area of the County, published a progress report in October for submission to the participant authorities.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

This service, whilst maintained in a satisfactory manner during the year, promises to have considerable spare capacity next year upon completion of connections and reconnection contracts on the new sewers at Attleborough and East Harling.

In 1969, the question of whether the service should be extended to other parishes or run down (as advocated in my report for 1967) will be under consideration by the Council.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

There has been an appreciable increase in demands on this service in 1968 and although the greatest increase has been in respect of chargeable emptyings, the fact that this has involved more "overtime" days employment of the crews means that the increased revenue has been more than taken up in wages and running costs of vehicles.

As forecast in last year's report, the provision of the new sewerage schemes will reduce demands to some extent, although it is realised that the efficiency of soakage outlets from semiconservancy installations diminishes with the passage of time and more frequent emptyings are required.

The following table gives a statistical picture of work undertaken and details of revenue from chargeable emptyings :-

<u>Free Emptyings</u>			<u>Chargeable Emptyings</u>		
<u>No. of Emptyings Undertaken.</u>	<u>No. of loads taken out.</u>		<u>No. of Emptyings</u>	<u>No. of loads taken out.</u>	<u>Revenue.</u>
1968	594	690	752	1,101	£1,456.15s.
(1967)	450	582	480	734	£ 937. 5s.
(1966)	452	564	542	831	£1,063.10s.
(1965)	348	413	358	574	£ 741. 0s.
(1964)	333	402	402	652	£ 823.15s.

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

<u>No. of Emptyings.</u>	<u>No. of loads taken out.</u>	<u>Revenue.</u>
1968 37	241	£259.10s.
(1967) 45	168	£193.
(1966) 41	194	£215.
(1965) 30	101	£118.
(1964) 46	108	£131.

HOUSING.

Whilst little progress has been possible in this field during the year the appointment of the second Additional Public Health Inspector will facilitate action under this heading upon completion of his present duties, under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, which have been given immediate priority.

RODENT CONTROL.

This service was continued as widely as possible within the limitations of the small staff (two operators). The limitations are that routine, systematic inspection, parish by parish, is not often possible owing to demands for immediate treatments, particularly in the winter months.

Other factors which hamper efficient overall control are (a) the difficulty in co-ordinating treatments by our staff with treatments in adjacent areas (mainly agricultural land) which we are unable to cover with our small organisation and (b) failure of land owners to carry out treatments on their own premises.

It is pleasing to record that many tributes were paid concerning the efficiency of our operators.

Details of inspections and infestations are given in the following table :-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	6,571	808
2. a. Total number of Properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	1,634	24
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	1,061	24
(ii) Mice	72	1
3. Total number of Properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,706	15
Number infested by (i) Rats	1,212	14
(ii) Mice	37	1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Of the 143 premises registered with the Council, 138 received a general inspection, 284 visits having been made for this purpose, during the year. Of these premises 92 complied fully with the requirements of the Act by the 31st December. This figure can be expressed as 66.7% of the total number of premises registered.

The works outstanding are mainly of a minor nature and are summarised below :-

Abstracts of the Act to be provided	22
Thermometers to be provided	7
Artificial lights to be installed in sanitary conveniences	11
Sanitary conveniences to be provided	9
Sanitary conveniences to be designated "Male" or "Female"	2
Wash hand basins and fittings to be installed	9
Running hot or warm water to be installed at existing wash hand basins	5
First aid boxes to be provided	7
Floors to be made safe	7
Handrails to be provided to stairs	4
Parts of premises to be redecorated	3
Guards to be fitted to dangerous machines	1
Eating facilities to be provided in shops	1
Premises to be re-wired electrically	1
Water closets to be cleansed	2
Drinking water to be made available	1
Forms O.S.R.1 (Registration of Premises) to be returned	4

In nearly all cases where works of a constructional nature have been found necessary such works have been placed in the hands of a builder and will be attended to as circumstances permit.

The premises with works outstanding are situated as follows :-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Attleborough	18
Watton	12
East Harling	6
Great Ellingham	2
Rocklands	2
Snetterton	2
Brettenham	1
Eccles	1
Garboldisham	1
Kenninghall	1
	—
Total:	46
	==

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS IN O.S.R. PREMISES AT 31.12.68.

<u>Type of Workplace</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Offices	65	83
Shops	97	174
Wholesale Depts, Warehouses	10	6
Catering Establishments	2	13
Canteens	—	—
Fuel storage depots	4	—
	—	—
	178	276
	==	==
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>454</u>

ACCIDENTS IN O.S.R. PREMISES.

One accident was reported during the third quarter of the year. A junior employee at the International Stores, Attleborough, dropped a packing case from his shoulder onto his wrists, causing bruising, resulting in his being off work for three days. Action was not considered necessary in this case.

DANGEROUS PRACTICES

On routine inspection of the fuel storage depot of Messrs. Thomas Moy Ltd., Station Road, Attleborough, it was noted that an electric bag hoist, used for loading sacks of coal onto lorries, was in a highly dangerous condition.

The heavy duty, rubber covered, conductor cable from the 3 phase supply to the machine itself had at some time previously parted and had been rejoined in an unsatisfactory manner with insulating tape. The cable, exposed to all weather conditions, trailed behind the machine as it was moved about the yard, in such a way that it was inevitable that coal lorries, often fully loaded, would have to pass over it. Furthermore, the machine stood on sharp metal feet and the manual on-off override switch, provided for emergency use, was found to be inoperable.

The matter was treated as most urgent by the Department and after a telephone conversation with the head office of the firm an on-site interview was arranged with one of the Directors with the result that the machine was immediately removed from the premises for repair.

When returned a new emergency switch had been fitted together with a length of industrial quality armoured cable. Additional power sockets were installed at the individual fuel bays in the yard, thereby minimising the risk of damage by vehicular traffic and providing safer working conditions for the employees.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Under this heading the major items of report concern the completion and commissioning of new schemes at Attleborough in June and East Harling in November.

Much time was, of necessity, devoted to initial operation of these schemes and results at the end of the year, following correction of 'teething' faults, were encouraging, particularly in respect of Attleborough.

A Maintenance Engineer was appointed to cover the plants in the care of the Public Health Department and one additional manual worker was engaged. The labour force was completed by the transfer of one man from the old works at Attleborough, which are now practically disused and of one man from ditching duties (now undertaken by mechanical equipment).

A Land Rover with trailer was purchased from the Civil Defence organisation and the purchase of mechanical drain-clearing equipment was approved.

These measures constituted the initial steps in establishing a mobile maintenance unit to service existing and future schemes.

In a report to the Council early in the year I drew attention to the fact that whereas a laboratory had been provided in the administrative building at the Attleborough disposal works, there seemed no prospect of our being able to use it economically in the foreseeable future and suggested that use by a consortium of authorities may be possible, with undoubted advantages to ourselves. Negotiation and organisation by the County Council established such a service with ten authorities participating. A chemist was appointed and a regular sampling programme fixed for each authority.

At the end of the year the Council reconsidered its priority list in the light of urgency arising from the need to provide adequate working flows to treatment plants already in being or coming into use in the near future.

In this connection, priorities were agreed as follows :-

- (a) Banham) Flows essential to New Buckenham scheme now under
) construction.
- (b) Old)
 Buckenham)
- (c) Kenninghall - Flows to East Harling scheme, already in operation.
- (d) North & South Lopham) Priority on public health grounds
- (e) Gt. Hockham) as previously.

The changes from the original list involved placing Kenninghall below Banham and Old Buckenham for the reason stated.

In the parish of Attleborough a small extension to the sewerage system in the Point House area was approved and installed. A proposed extension in the West Carr area was deferred on account of high costs and pending other possible extensions which could cover the area involved.

The question of sewerage additional land at the Besthorpe end of the parish was under consideration by the Council at the close of the year.

Balancing tanks and flow control equipment at the local cyder factory were nearing completion in December.

At Watton larger pumps were installed at Thetford Road pumping station to cater for increased flows from new housing development in the area and proposals to extend a sewer in Griston Road were finally approved following deferrment early in the year by the Ministry.

In February the Council approved construction of a relief sewer to serve private estate development in the Brandon Road area and accepted another developer's proposals for sewerage of further development North of Harvey Street.

In addition, the adjoining Authority, Swaffham R.D.C. (with whom the Watton scheme is a joint undertaking) requested facilities for treatment of sewage from the parish of Little Cressingham, at the Watton plant.

In the parish of East Harling a sewer connection contract was let in the sum of £22,450.

The New Buckenham contract (£111,455) involving sewerage of that parish and the construction of treatment plant at Old Buckenham was commenced in October.

At an open meeting in the parish in September the scheme was explained in detail to residents and their co-operation and tolerance requested while operations were in progress.

At North Lopham the County Highways Department undertook construction of a road drain, on a 50/50 basis with the Council to relieve flooding in the village.

DRAINAGE OF PREMISES.

Twelve new drainage systems were inspected and tested at existing premises as also were all connections made, by private persons, to the new sewers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

As in former years it gives me great pleasure to express appreciation of the loyal service of the technical and manual staffs, especially that of Mr. Sheldrake, Additional Public Health Inspector.

The tolerant consideration of the Council and the co-operation of the staff of other departments is also acknowledged with gratitude.

The one unhappy event of this otherwise pleasant year was the untimely, lamented death of the Clerk of the Council in November.



Senior Public Health Inspector.

